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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending April 16, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Good Week for Field Work: This week experienced low levels of precipitation. Warm weather spread throughout the Keystone State for the Easter Weekend. The sunshine and warmth provided for the crops that are already in the ground and blooming enabled them to have several days of growth. Because of the great weather, days of fieldwork were high as well. However, dry weather has struck again, as levels of soil moisture dropped from the week before. Farmers statewide are hoping for a stronger rain fall. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, hauling and spreading manure, planting corn, sorghum, oats and potatoes.

needed rain is expected. This week's pasture conditions are the following: 18 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

U.S. as of April 9, 2006: Severe thunderstorms struck again from April 6-8, starting on the eastern Plains and progressing eastward to the Atlantic States. Approximately 90 tornadoes were reported during the three-day outbreak, boosting the nation's year-to-date count to more than 450. The Nation's preliminary year-to-date count of tornadoes (466 through April 9) and tornado-related fatalities (48) remained exceptionally high compared to the 1982-2005 annual averages of 1077 tornadoes and 55 deaths. Rain and warmth promoted winter wheat development but slowed planting preparations. Meanwhile, in the East, two rounds of precipitation provided some relief from a spring dry spell.

Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the Nation, with the exception of California and the Northeast. However, rainfall was abundant across most of the Corn Belt, improving soil moisture but seriously hindering fieldwork. Fieldwork was limited to 3 days or less.

Corn: Growers had seeded 3 percent of their acreage, 3 percentage points behind last year and 1 point behind normal. Progress was limited to 16 percent or less elsewhere.

Sorghum: Planting, at 18 percent complete, was 4 points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal.

Small Grains: Barley seeding, at 5 percent complete, was 6 points behind last year and the normal. Progress was behind the normal pace in the nearly all States. Planting was farthest behind in the Northwest.

Thirty-one percent of the Nation's oat crop had been planted, 9 points behind last year and 3 points behind normal. Pennsylvania producers, with 29 percent of their acreage sown, were 17 points ahead of normal.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 16, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
15	29	55	1

Crops: Spring plowing is now 63 percent complete, well ahead of last year at this time as well as the 5-year average. Planting for the corn crop as well as for sorghum is still in the beginning stage. Although none of the winter wheat crop has begun heading, the crop condition for wheat is doing very well as 70 percent of the crop was reported as good or excellent. Planting oats is going well at 52 percent, ahead of last year's 45 percent at this time. Fourteen percent of the oat crop has now emerged, better than the 5-year average of 6 percent. Eighty-five percent of the oat crop is in either good or excellent condition.

Peaches, cherries, and apples are currently in the pink stage. Peaches and cherries are both at ninety-four percent pink, while apples are only are 10 percent. Each fruit is ahead of its own 5-year average for the pink stage. Ninety percent of the peaches are in full bloom, and ninety-two percent of the cherries are in full bloom as well. Both are ahead of the previous year's pace as well as the 5-year average.

Livestock: Several farmers have not let their livestock out to pasture much at all because of the pasture conditions. A much

Weather Data For Week Ending April 16, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 16, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	71	31	53	8	0.56	3	1.91	0.19	10	56	52	153
Franklin	73	27	52	8	0.50	3	1.85	0.00	9	42	38	147
Meadville	71	28	52	9	0.36	3	0.99	-0.77	6	47	47	138
Mercer	74	26	52	7	0.53	2	1.70	-0.14	9	43	40	145
Springboro	72	26	50	5	0.55	3	1.91	0.27	9	34	28	124
Warren	74	23	51	8	0.66	3	2.47	0.62	11	37	37	133
North Central												
Bradford Region	69	22	50	9	0.65	3	2.12	0.36	11	38	38	121
Emporium	75	26	52	10	0.78	3	2.46	0.70	12	32	32	138
Kane	71	19	48	8	0.48	3	2.06	0.14	8	18	18	105
Laporte	71	24	51	6	0.43	3	1.00	-0.69	9	36	28	118
Lock Haven	80	25	53	7	0.40	3	1.53	-0.07	8	49	41	161
Port Allegany	72	22	50	8	0.46	3	1.89	0.28	8	36	36	127
Renovo	77	25	53	7	0.32	3	1.62	0.02	9	50	42	161
Ridgway	72	20	50	8	0.94	3	2.25	0.49	9	23	23	119
Stevenson Dam	76	25	53	11	0.38	3	1.62	-0.14	9	45	45	154
Towanda	76	21	51	6	0.46	2	0.93	-0.55	6	41	33	139
Wellsboro	71	22	50	9	0.70	2	1.71	0.53	8	27	27	115
Williamsport	79	29	55	8	0.44	3	0.93	-0.76	7	70	51	183
Northeast												
Hawley	74	21	49	6	0.58	2	1.18	-0.57	6	27	27	105
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	75	27	55	8	0.23	1	1.35	-0.16	6	71	63	176
Susquehanna	71	24	51	9	0.52	2	1.37	-0.52	8	32	32	120
West Central												
Butler	75	25	53	7	0.62	3	1.24	-0.41	9	51	42	163
New Castle	77	28	55	10	0.59	3	1.58	-0.02	9	65	63	179
Slippery Rock	74	27	52	8	0.47	3	1.80	0.14	9	56	55	166
Central												
Altoona/Blair	73	29	56	9	0.37	2	0.89	-0.77	7	83	65	200
DuBois	71	26	53	9	0.56	3	2.12	0.36	11	57	55	161
Lewistown	78	27	54	6	0.55	3	1.72	0.23	11	67	44	187
Middletown	76	32	57	7	0.13	3	1.42	-0.21	8	97	66	228
Prince Gallitzi	74	23	52	7	0.44	3	1.92	-0.32	11	45	42	148
Selinsgrove	79	27	53	7	0.22	3	1.14	-0.50	9	57	41	171
State College	75	31	56	10	0.46	3	1.30	-0.21	9	75	67	196
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	78	32	56	8	0.15	3	1.41	-0.38	9	74	55	196
Lehighton	77	28	53	5	0.22	3	1.27	-0.36	11	47	33	150
Matamoras	75	26	52	5	0.40	3	1.63	-0.40	10	38	29	126
Tobyhanna	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	77	37	59	12	0.41	2	1.41	-0.21	9	100	82	226
Derry	76	25	54	8	0.57	3	1.88	0.19	9	67	63	176
Myersdale	72	22	50	4	0.33	3	1.54	-0.54	10	36	29	140
Mount Pleasant	77	24	54	10	0.48	3	1.89	-0.27	9	64	62	177
Pittsburgh Intl	77	31	58	10	0.24	2	1.26	-0.43	8	93	72	214
Rector	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Waynesburg	79	26	55	8	0.15	2	1.30	-0.50	8	74	61	191
South Central												
Biglerville	78	31	57	7	0.17	3	1.33	-0.43	9	87	56	216
Everett	72	28	52	6	0.43	3	1.80	0.07	10	51	40	167
Hanover	77	28	56	6	0.26	3	1.86	0.10	11	90	59	217
Shippensburg	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
South Mountain	72	26	53	5	0.27	3	1.77	0.11	10	67	52	176
York	77	26	56	6	0.09	3	1.52	-0.39	9	95	64	218
Southeast												
Green Lane	78	31	55	7	0.06	2	1.43	-0.45	9	74	58	196
Hamburg	79	32	57	10	0.10	3	1.42	-0.50	11	80	73	203
Hopewell	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	76	32	55	7	0.08	3	1.45	-0.31	8	87	66	213
Neshaminy Falls	78	31	54	6	0.04	1	1.17	-0.91	7	58	38	181
New Holland	77	28	56	8	0.05	2	1.55	-0.21	8	81	60	204
Philadelphia	82	40	59	9	0.00	0	1.21	-0.71	5	116	81	263
Philadelphia NE	80	37	59	8	0.01	1	1.05	-0.87	7	112	77	254
Reading	77	30	57	9	0.13	3	1.43	-0.53	9	90	76	215
Valley Forge Na	79	26	56	5	0.09	2	1.31	-0.61	7	79	46	203
Willow Grove	77	36	57	9	0.05	2	0.88	-1.20	7	93	73	226

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - A good week for field work, planting alfalfa, oats and starting to get some early corn planted. Warmer weather and a few showers helped to get pastures going. Looks like an excellent fruit crop so far. No significant winter injury and excellent weather during bloom for pollination so far. Peaches are nearly in full bloom while cherries are full bloom now.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County is still very dry. DEP issued drought watch for entire state on April 12th and according to DEP press release, Adams County has a -4.6 inch deficit from normal over the past 60 days. Adams County is still extremely dry. Soil conditions are not very warm yet. Adams County did receive 3/4 inch of rainfall last Friday into Saturday. A brief shower was received Thursday night into Friday morning. The grass and hay fields are greening up in the county. Some people have started to mow their lawns now since we received some rainfall. Daytime temps have been in the 60's and nighttime temps have been around 45-50 degrees. Peaches are in full bloom. If warm temps continue, apple blossoms are not far from blooming and should be good timing for apple blossom weekend beginning in May. Producers continue to prepare soils for future planting once the ground temps increase. Wheat and Barley are greening up and starting to show some growth. Still too early to tell how those crops will fair with current weather conditions. We could certainly use some more rainfall to help our crops in Adams County and for future ground water.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - Last week was an exceptionally good week to get crops in the ground. There were a few showers, but we still need rain. It's been pretty dry.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Rain fall in my gage for the week was .6 inches. Good week to continue more field work.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - 1/2 inch of rain for the week. Soil temperature still too low for corn to germinate. Tillage is being done, but haven't seen the planters out yet.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - How rapidly conditions changed in the course of one week. Last week started out on the moist side with late Friday rains the previous week. By this Monday soil conditions have quickly changed to dry already. This should be the week of the first major push to plant corn across northern Dauphin County. Most manure has been hauled; cover crops sprayed and planters made ready. Rye is approaching knee high and will soon be ready for chopping. Alfalfa is rapidly growing, no instances of weevils found or reported. New seedlings of forage crops are developing well. Really need some moisture across a wide area.

FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts - Area relatively dry for this time of year, ample surface moisture, but water table has to be lower than normal.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Farmers have been working on spreading winter manure, fence repair, and getting equipment field ready. Warren, Venango, Clarion, and Forest Counties are in much need of rain. Crop growth is very poor due to cold March and a very dry April.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - Received a couple of showers the past week. A little moisture and a few warm nights sure make a difference.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Dry soil conditions have allowed for field work to proceed ahead of normal. Earliest sweet corn is being planted this week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, BURELL WHITWORTH JR (NRCS) - The rain was not enough to hamper field work this past week. Weather conditions have been quite favorable this spring for planting alfalfa, grasses and small grain. Farmers are already planting corn. Conservation work has also benefited from the weather.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill - Corn planting is well ahead of normal. New forage seedlings received some very much needed rain to help with germination and emergence.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Another dry week, 0.03" of rain on Friday afternoon. No one that I know of has planted field corn yet. We have started accumulating GDD's for corn this week and the forecast for this coming week looks warm. Farmers are still spreading fertilizer and manure, liming, spraying wheat, hay and burn-down for corn. Timothy mites are still active and Alfalfa weevils were observed late last week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Oats are beginning to emerge and some fields are streaked. The alfalfa and corn that have been planted has not emerged, however, it has germinated. The winter grain has responded to the top-dressing following the recent showers that produced nearly one inch of rainfall. The activities were plowing, planting, spraying herbicides, and spreading manure.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, William Keeney (NRCS) - We had a good soaking rain on Friday. This helped jump start the pastures.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - It has been another good week for field work. The producers in Washington County have expressed surprise at how fast the fields are drying.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Warmer temperatures have helped with grass growth. Relatively dry conditions have allowed field work to continue with almost no delays. Most of the larger growers are ready to start corn planting.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 16, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	63	43	31
Oats, planted	52	45	26
Oats, emerged	14	8	6
Peaches, in pink	94	70	26
Peaches, in full bloom or past	90	6	1
Cherries, in pink	94	74	19
Cherries, in full bloom or past	92	9	2
Apples, in pink	10	38	9

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 16, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	27	62	8
Oats	0	0	15	76	9
Pasture	18	10	33	34	5

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